

Appl. No. 09/941,525
Amdt. Dated May 7, 2007
Reply to Office Action of December 6, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A coated wire cloth fabric comprising in combination: a wire cloth; and a coating over the wire cloth.

Claim 2. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the wire cloth comprises a welded wire mesh.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the wire cloth is comprised of a metal or alloy selected from the group consisting of brass, copper, Monel.RTM., nickel, plain steel, galvanized steel, stainless steel and any other substantially malleable, ductile, non-elastic metal or alloy.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the wire cloth has a mesh count of between about 2 openings per linear inch and 6 openings per linear inch.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 4, wherein the wire cloth has a mesh count of about 4 openings per linear inch.

Claim 6. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the wire cloth has a wire size of between about 0.010 inches and about 0.040 inches.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 6, wherein the wire cloth has a wire size of about 0.025 inches.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the wire cloth comprises a woven wire mesh.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 8, wherein the woven wire mesh comprises a plain square weave with a flat top crimp.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the coating comprises at least one thermoplastic resin.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 10, wherein the at least one thermoplastic resin is selected from the group consisting of ethylene propylene diene monomer, polyolefins, polyvinyl chloride, and polyethylene.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied to at least one surface of the wire cloth.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by a lamination process.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the coating is applied by a calendaring process.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) The coated wire cloth fabric of claim 1, wherein the coated wire cloth fabric is used as a reinforcing member in a brim of a hat.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) A hat comprising: a brim comprised of a reinforcing member defining a shape of the brim, wherein the reinforcing member comprises a plurality of wires arranged as a frame member; and a crown attached to the brim.

Claim 17. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 16, wherein the reinforcing member further comprises a coating encapsulating the frame member.

Claim 18. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 17, wherein the coating comprises at least one thermoplastic resin.

Claim 19. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 16, wherein at least one layer of cover material covers the reinforcing member.

Claim 20. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 17, wherein the coating further comprises at least one lubricant.

Claim 21. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 17, wherein the coating further comprises a blowing agent.

Claim 22. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 16, wherein the plurality of wires are arranged in a mesh pattern in a wire cloth.

Claim 23. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 22, wherein the wire cloth includes a welded wire mesh.

Claim 24. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 22, wherein the wire cloth includes a woven wire mesh.

Claim 25. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 16, wherein the plurality of wires are arranged in a pattern following contour lines of the brim.

Claim 26. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 25, wherein the plurality of wires are arranged in a pattern following contour lines of the brim from an outer edge to an inner edge of the brim.

Claim 27. (withdrawn) The hat of claim 26, wherein the plurality of wires are connected by a weld to one of the plurality of wires at the outer edge of the brim.

Claim 28. (withdrawn) A garment comprising: a malleable wire frame member; and a top and bottom layer of cover material between which the malleable wire frame member is disposed.

Claim 29. (withdrawn) The garment of claim 28, wherein the malleable wire frame member includes a wire cloth.

Claim 30. (withdrawn) The garment of claim 28, wherein the malleable wire frame member may be coated to encapsulate the malleable wire frame member.

Claim 31. (withdrawn) The garment of claim 28, wherein the garment is a hat brim.

Claim 32. (withdrawn) The garment of claim 28, wherein the malleable wire frame member is disposed between the top and bottom layers of cover material which are sewn together.

Claim 33. (canceled)

Claim 34. (currently amended) A method of making a hat brim capable of repeated reshaping and reformation, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one wire frame member;

coating the at least one wire frame member with at least one thermoplastic resin that when hardened is capable of repeated reshaping and reformation by hand and withstands bending without fracturing;

making the coated wire frame member into a reinforcing member in a shape of the hat brim; and

incorporating the reinforcing member into the brim of the hat, wherein the at least one wire frame member comprises a wire cloth made of a metal that is substantially malleable, substantially ductile, and provides structurally plasticity.

Claim 35. (canceled)

Claim 36. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the reinforcing member may be covered by at least one cover material.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the reinforcing member may be covered by at least one cover material on either of the top or bottom surfaces of the reinforcing member.

Claim 38. (currently amended) A method of making a hat brim capable of repeated reshaping and reformation, comprising the steps of:

providing at least one wire frame member;

coating the at least one wire frame member with at least one thermoplastic resin that when hardened is capable of repeated reshaping and reformation by hand and withstands bending without fracturing;

making the coated wire frame member into a reinforcing member

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in a shape of the hat brim; and
incorporating the reinforcing member into the brim of the hat.

Claim 39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38,
wherein the at least one wire frame member comprises a
plurality of wires arranged in a pattern following contour
lines of the brim.

Claim 40. (previously presented) The method of claim 38,
wherein said wire frame member is made of a metal that is
substantially malleable, substantially ductile, and provides
structurally plasticity.